

Michael Parekowhai

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Michael Parekowhai

Born 1968 in Porirua, New Zealand (Ngati Whakarongo)
Lives and works in Auckland, New Zealand

Michael Parekowhai's narratives can be complex; he draws on an abundant range of both vernacular and collective vocabularies which he re-manufactures into the narrative structures and formal languages of his work. Although key themes of his practice could be described as deliberate takes on notions of introduced species and culture, any potentially overt political dimensions, however, are downplayed. Ideas of camaraderie, tools of teaching and childhood learning, as well as quotes from the canon of modern art history and popular culture openly play out in many of Parekowhai's stories. While his work is often described as emphasising the extraordinariness of the ordinary, each body of work has layers of potential for meaning and significance – they are open to any depth of interpretation and storytelling.

Michael Parekowhai is one of New Zealand's most important contemporary practitioners. In addition to an extensive exhibition history, his work is held in all significant public and private collections throughout New Zealand and Australia, as well as major works in permanent collections across the Asia-Pacific region and Europe. Michael Parekowhai has been included in many important exhibitions, including the Asia Pacific Triennial (2006-2007), the Gwangju Biennale (2004); Sydney Biennale (2002), Headlands, MCA, Sydney (1992); and the major art fairs in Basel, Art Basel (2006, 2007) and LISTE (2007). In 2011 Parekowhai represented New Zealand at the 54th Venice Biennale. A major survey of his work is to be hosted by Queensland Gallery of Modern Art in 2015. Parekowhai's work has been reviewed in most major international art periodicals, and covered by every major art periodical in Australasia.

Michael Parekowhai was born in Porirua, New Zealand in 1968, of Maori (Ngati Whakarongo) and Pakeha descent. Parekowhai graduated with a BFA (1990) and MFA (2000) from the University of Auckland's Elam School of Fine Arts, and in 2001 became an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate. Michael Parekowhai currently holds the position of Associate Professor in Fine Arts at the University of Auckland. His exhibition history spans almost two decades of practice.

EDUCATION

2000

Master of Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, New Zealand

1991

Teaching Diploma, Auckland College of Education, Auckland, New Zealand

1990

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, New Zealand

AWARDS

2001

Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2016

Light Switch and Conduit, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (group)
Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, Australia (group)

2015

Rules of the Game, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
The Promised Land, Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), Brisbane, Australia (solo)
Implicated and Immune, Michael Lett, Auckland (group)

2014

Menagerie, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Melbourne (group)
Black Rainbow: Michael Parekowhai and Ralph Hotere, Te Uru, Auckland (two person)

2013

The Past in the Present, Michael Lett at the Auckland Art Fair, Auckland (solo)
Michael Parekowhai et al., Michael Lett, Auckland (two person)
Black Rainbow: Michael Parekowhai and Ralph Hotere, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand (two person)

2012

Letter from Alice May Williams, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Peripheral Relations: Marcel Duchamp and New Zealand Art 1960-2011, Adam Art Gallery Te Pataka Toi, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
On First Looking into Chapman's Homer, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch. Also at Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (solo)
Sculpture is Everything, Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), Brisbane, Australia (group)

2011

The Far Side, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)

Toi Aotearoa, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland (group)
Te Ao Hurihuri, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
On First Looking into Chapman's Homer, 54th Venice Biennale 2011, New Zealand Pavilion; Also at Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France (solo)

2009

The Moment of Cubism, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)
Seldom is Herd, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, Australia (solo)
Jim McMurtry, Planet Festival, Onatrio, Canada (group)
Jim McMurtry, The New Dowse, Lower Hutt, New Zealand (group)
Yes We Are, One Day Sculpture, Wellington, New Zealand (solo)

2008

Jim McMurtry, Maori Hall / Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)
Dateline, City Gallery Kiel, Germany (group)
Dateline, City Gallery Sindelfingen, Germany (group)

2007

The Song of the Frog, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)
Love Chief, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Dateline, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany (group)
Hei konei mai: We'll meet again, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
My Sister, My Self, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)
Liste Art Fair, Michael Lett Stand, Basel, Switzerland (solo)
Cosmo McMurtry, NGV International, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (solo)
Reboot, The Jim Barr and Mary Barr Collection, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch, New Zealand (group)
Jim McMurtry, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch, New Zealand (solo)
Picturing Eden, Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego, California, USA (group)
Picturing Eden, University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, Iowa, USA (group)

2006

Eerst me fiets (First My Bike), Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, Australia (solo)
The Big O.E., Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand (solo)
Toi Te Papa Art of the Nation, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Reboot, The Jim Barr and Mary Barr Collection, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand (group)
Asia Pacific Triennial, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia (group)
Beaufort Inside, PMMK, Museum of Modern Art, Ostend, Belgium (group)
Beaufort Triennial 2006, Belgium Coast Line, Ostend, Belgium (group)
Hei konei mai: We'll meet again, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
The Armory, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery Stand, New York, USA (group)
Melbourne Art Fair, Special Projects, Melbourne, Australia (group)
Melbourne Art Fair, Michael Lett Stand, Melbourne, Australia (group)
Phoenix, Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Picturing Eden, George Eastman House, International Museum of Photography and Film, New York, USA (group)
Random Access, McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park, Langwarrin, Victoria, Australia (group)
High Tide: currents in contemporary New Zealand & Australian Art, Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland (group)
High Tide: currents in contemporary New Zealand & Australian Art, Contemporary Art Centre, 2006, Vilnius, Lithuania (group)

2005

Driving Mr. Albert, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)
Rainbow Servant Dreaming, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, Australia (solo)
Letters to the Ancestors, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton, New Zealand (group)
NADA Art Fair, Michael Lett Stand, Miami, USA (group)
Commodity & Delight: Views of Home, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand (group)
The Koru Club, Pataka, Porua, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Small Town, Big World; Contemporary Art from Te Papa, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Te Hei Tiki, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Gallery Artists, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, Australia (group)
High Chair, St. Pauls Street Gallery, AUT, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Remember New Zealand, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Te Moananui a Kiwa, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

2004

The Consolation of Philosophy: piko nei te matenga, Govett-Brewster Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand (solo)
Selected Works 1989 – 1994, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)
Remember New Zealand, Sao Paulo Biennale, San Paulo, Brazil (group)
A Grain of Dust A Drop of Water, Gwangju Biennale, Korea (group)
Melbourne Art Fair, Michael Lett Stand, Melbourne, Australia (group)
Earthly Delights, George Perry Gallery, Tauranga, New Zealand (group)
Art Showcase, Grace Joel, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
The Suter, Nelson, New Zealand (group)
IKI and thanks for all the IKA, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
State of Art, George Perry Gallery, Tauranga, New Zealand (group)
In Flower, Pataka, Porua, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Animals in Art, North Art, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
35K, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Urban Legends, Bartley Nees Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)

Paradise Now?, Asia Pacific Society, New York, USA (group)

2003

Kapa Haka, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)

Judy Darragh & Michael Parekowhai, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand (group)

Traffic, Crossing Currents in Indigenous Photomedia, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney, Australia (group)

Pacific Harbours, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

Opening Exhibition, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch, New Zealand (group)

9 Lives, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

Indians and Cowboys, (touring Gallery 4A, Sydney, Australia, Canberra Artspace, Canberra, Australia) (group)

Thompson, Frank, Paterson, Gimblett, Parekowhai, Gow Langsford Gallery, Sydney, Australia (group)

2002

Michael Parekowhai, Gow Langsford Gallery, Sydney, Australia (solo)

All there is / The Consolation of Philosophy: piko nei te matenga, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand (solo)

Chartwell Collection: Recent Acquisitions, New Gallery, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

Pataka Art Museum, Pataka, New Zealand (group)

(The World May Be) Fantastic, Biennale of Sydney, 2002, Sydney, Australia (group)

Katharina Grosse, Melinda Harper, Michael Parekowhai, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

2001-2002

All there is, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)

2001

Patriot: Ten Guitars, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, USA (solo)

The Consolation of Philosophy: piko nei te matenga, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)

Good Work, the Jim Barr and Mary Barr Collection (touring Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand)

Purangiaho: Seeing Clearly, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand

Techno Maori, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

Multistylus Programme, Recent Chartwell Acquisitions, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand

Bright Paradise: the 1st Auckland Triennial, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, New Zealand

Prospect 2001, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

Let There Be Light, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

Catalogue Exhibition, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

2000

The Beverly Hills Gun Club, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)

The Beverly Hills Gun Club / True Action Adventures of the Twentieth Century, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand (solo)

Language Matters, Adam Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)

The Numbers Game, Adam Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)

Noumea Biennial, Tibaou Centre, Noumea (group)

Old Worlds/New Worlds, Art Museum of Missoula, U.S.A (group)

Melbourne Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne, Australia (group)

Flight patterns, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, U.S.A (group)

Simpson Grierson Season - works from the collection, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

Wonderlands, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand (group)

1999-2000

Patriot: Ten Guitars, touring exhibition (Ar (group) tspace, Auckland, New Zealand, Beyond the Future, The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand, Govett-Brewster Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand) (solo)

Beyond the Future: The Third Asia - Pacific Triennial, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia (group)

1999

Kitset Cultures, Djamu Gallery, The Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia (solo)

Home and Away, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

Taonga Maori, Artstation, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

The Promoter, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

Who Do I Think I Am, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

Wonderlands: views on life at the end of the century, at the end of the world, Govett - Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand (group)

1998

Recent Paintings, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand (solo)

Dream Collectors, Te Papa Tongarewa, Museum of New Zealand, Wellington, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

1997

Recent Paintings, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)

Recent Paintings, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (solo)

1996

The World Over / de wereld bollen: art in the age of globalisation, City Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (group)

"Here I give thanks", Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand (group)

1995

Cultural Safety, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton, City Gallery, Wellington, Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Frankfurter, Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany (group)
The Nervous System, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand (group)
Korurangi, New Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

1994

Kiss the Baby Goodbye, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand (solo)
Kiss the Baby Goodbye, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton, New Zealand (solo)
A Capella, Gregory Flint Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (solo)
Art Now, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Changing Signs, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

1993

After McCahon, Cubism, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Shared Pleasures, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton, New Zealand (group)
International Festival of the Arts, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Stop Making Sense, Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)

1992

Homemade Home, Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Vogue/Vague, CSA Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand (group)
Hit Parade: contemporary art from the Paris Family Collection, Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
W.A.R Whatu Aho Rua, Tandanya Gallery, Adelaide, Australia (group)
Headlands: thinking through New Zealand art, National Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Headlands: thinking through New Zealand art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia (group)

1991

Light Sensitive, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Cross-pollination, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

1990

Kohia Ko Taikaka Anake, National Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Choice!, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Light'arted, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Amery, Mark, 'Know Just Where You Are', Review, Listener, 24 June 2000
Barr, Jim & Mary, 'The Indefinite Article', Art Asia Pacific 23, pp72-76
Barton, Christina, Art Now, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand, 1994, p9, 11, 66-67, 90
Butler, Connie, 'West of everything' Parkett57, pp189-194
Burke, Gregory, 'Michael Parekowhai', Review, Art & Text, No. 69, May - July 2000
Burke, Gregory, Cultural Safety, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt; City Gallery, Wellington, 1995
Burke, Gregory, 'Michael Parekowhai', Home and Away: Contemporary Australian and New Zealand Art From the Chartwell Collection (ed. William McAloon)
Cochrane-Simons, Susan, 'Maori Custom is Worth Remembering', Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney, Australia, 18 April 1992
Dale, Richard, 'Reviews Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art', Eyeline 41, Summer 1999 / 2000
Dream Collectors, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, Auckland Art Gallery, 1998
Flight Patterns, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, U.S.A. 2000
French, Blair, 'Michael Parekowhai', Reviews, Art Asia Pacific, issue 26, p92
Gibson, Jeff, 'Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art', Artforum International, January 2000
Headlands: thinking through New Zealand art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 1992
Headlands: thinking through New Zealand art, National Art Gallery, Wellington
Hewitson, Michele, 'On the Wild Side', NZ Herald, 19 June 2000
Hit parade: contemporary art from the Paris Family Collection, Wellington, City Art Gallery, 1992
Intra, Giovanni, 'Being Brown, Making flutes and Dying', Stamp, #12, Auckland, New Zealand, 1990
Jahnke, Robert, Korurangi, New Gallery, Auckland, 1995
Judd, Craig, 'Gwangju Biennale 2004: A Viewer-Participant Memoir', Eyeline # 56, Summer 2004/2005, pp18 - 20
Leonard, Robert, 'Against Purity: three word sculptures by Michael Parekowhai', Art New Zealand, #59, Auckland, New Zealand, 1991, p52-54
Leonard, Robert, 'Perverse Homage's', Planet, #13, Auckland, New Zealand, 1994
Leonard, Robert and Strongman, Lara, Kiss the Baby Goodbye, Govett-Brewster Gallery, New Plymouth & Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton, New Zealand, 1994
Leonard, Robert, Patriot, Catalogue, published by Gow Langsford Gallery and Artspace, Auckland, 1999
Leonard, Robert, 'Michael Parekowhai: Ten Guitars', Beyond the future: The Third Asia Art Pacific Triennial, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 1999, p100-101
Linnell, Amanda, 'Michael Parekowhai', Being Maori – A Journal of Articles About The Maori Culture, p.9 – 10, 2005
Localities of Desire, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia, 1994
McAloon, William, Vogue/Vague, CSA Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand, 1992
McAloon, William, 'Sixty Strings Slowly Strummed', Sunday Star Times, 21 May 2000
McNamara, T.J., 'Plenty of fire power and a lot of serious questions', NZ Herald, 12 June 2000
McNamara, T.J., 'First Shock Gives Way To Curiosity', NZ Herald, pg.B6, NZ Herald, 3 August 2005
Mane-Wheoki, Jonathan, 'States of Flux: The Third Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art', Art New Zealand 93, Summer 1999-2000
Mason, Ngahiraka, Purangiaho Toku Mata, Purangiaho (Seeing Clearly), exhibition catalogue, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, 2001
Mason, Ngahiraka, 'The Bosom of Abraham, A recent Gallery acquisition', Gallery News 04, Dec - Feb 1999-2000

Mendelssohn, Joanna, 'New Views of New Zealand: two versions of isolation', *The Bulletin*, Auckland, New Zealand, 21 April 1992

Page, Maud, *Kitset Cultures*, Catalogue, Djamu Gallery, Sydney, 1999

Panaho, Rangi, W.A.R.. *Whatu Aho Rua*, Tandanya Gallery, Adelaide, 1992

Parekowhai, Michael, 'page work', *Pavement* 37, pp190-191

Pound, Francis, *Topographies*, *Flight Patterns*, p130

Paton, Justin, *Special Agent*, Michael Parekowhai's *Generous Duplicity*, *Art New Zealand* 103, Winter 2002

Paton, Justin (2002, May). *Michael Parekowhai In Frieze*, #67. p95

Rawlins, Jarrod, *Flash Art*, Vol. XXXVIII, #243, pg. 132 – 133, July / September 2005

Speden, Graeme, 'Accent on Child's Play', *New Zealand Herald*, Auckland, New Zealand, 20 September 1993

Smith, Allan, "Michael Parekowhai: Kiss the Baby Goodbye", *Art New Zealand* 72, Spring 1994, pp64-67

Smith, Alan, *The Nervous System*, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, 1995

Stoney, Robin, *Taonga Maori*, Circa 91, cover and p63

Strongman, Lara, *Shared Pleasures: The Chartwell Collection*, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton, New Zealand, 1993

The world over / de wereld bollen: art in the age of globalisation, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; City Gallery, Wellington; 1996

The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh USA. (2002). *Michael Parekowhai. Exhibition Catalogue*

Watson, Ruth, "Indians and Cowboys: Now and Here" *Indian and Cowboys*, Gallery 4A, Asia Australia, Arts Centre, Sydney 2003

White, Margo, "Mike's World" *Metro*, March 2004, pp54 - 61

Zepke, Stephen, 'Difference without Binary oppositions. A chance for a Choice!' *Antic*, #8, Auckland, New Zealand, 1992

SELECTED PUBLIC & PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Arario Museum, Cheonan, Seoul, Korea

Musee du quai Branly, Paris, France

Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

National Library Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand

Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch, New Zealand

Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand

Jim Barr and Mary Barr Collection, Wellington, New Zealand

Les and Milly Paris Collection, Wellington, New Zealand

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand

Saatchi & Saatchi Collection, Wellington, New Zealand

Sweeney and Vesty Collection, Wellington, New Zealand

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia

Thanksgiving Trust, Auckland, New Zealand

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia